|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMEBDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY Date: 20 September 2013 | | | | UNDP_Logo-Blue w TaglineBlue-ENG.png |
| Name Aki Kono, UN-REDD/UNDP/GEF EBD  With Lucy Emerton, Consultant and Thomas Enters, UN-REDD/UNEP | | | |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**  BKK/UB/BKK | | **List of Annexes**: | | |
| Inclusive Travel Dates: | | **Key counterpart(s) in each location:** | | |
| 1-6 September 2013  (excluding travel) |  | Location: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  UN Organizations   * Sezin Sinanoglu, UN Resident Coordinator, Mongolia * Bunchingiv Bazartseren, UNDP CO Environment Team Leader   Key Government Officials met during the mission:   * Mr. Tsesed Banzaragch, Director, Division of Forest Conservation and Reforestation Management, MoEGD (Operational FP of UN-REDD) * Mr Dechin, i.a. Director of the Finance and Investment Division, MEGD * Mr. N.Dugersuren, General-director of the Department of Public Administration Management, MEGD * Mr. B.Gantulga, General-director of the Department of Policy Implementation, MEGD * Mr. J.Ganbat General-director of the Fiscal Policy Department, Ministry of Finance * Mr. Batkhurel General-director of the Development Policy, Strategic planning and Coordination, Ministry of Economic Development * Others include various other department directors of MEGD and senior officials of Ministry of Mining, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry, and CSOs and private sector representatives | | |
| **Purpose/Objectives of Mission**  TS oversight mission and introduce UNEP into the REDD+ Readiness support work in Mongolia. | | | | |
| **Context**  The UN-REDD Programme has assisted Mongolia to prepare its National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, which sets out the detailed activities that will implement by the country to prepare for full implementation of REDD+. An advanced draft of the Roadmap document is currently going through a review process by the government and development partners in the country. In order to initiate the implementation of the Roadmap, the government has requested UNDP/UN-REDD to provide Targeted Support to help secure the forest sector financing and basic operational capacity at the institutional level through the following three steps:   * Understanding the economic value of land-use sectors and related public financing flows; * Assessment of entry points and strategic options to support forest sector financing and policy implementation; and * Development of strategies to: i) strengthen policy implementation; and ii) make the forest sector a priority.   This is to ensure strong national ownership and effective capacity absorption during the Readiness phase.  The first step – forest sector valuation has been completed during the 1st and 2nd quarters of this year, this mission was to initiate the second step - assessment of institutional stakeholders based on a political economy approach to look at obstacles and entry points for implementing the three key recommendations from the forest sector valuation work:   1. Integrating forests into the spending of other sectors 2. Incorporating sectoral values in to forest management services 3. Harmonizing forest sector finance and management planning   The analytical framework for this assessment was designed and agreed in June.   The report of this assessment will be ready by end-October once the assessment findings and recommendations are passed through a national validation meeting.  The recommendations will then be followed up by the Capacity Development team in APRC through designing and implementing a capacity development programme. | | | | |
| **Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**   1. The mission interviewed over 20 director level officials from the ministries of environment, finance, economic development, agriculture, energy and mining, CSOs and private sector to assess obstacles and entry points for the recommendations from the forest sector valuation work.   These interviews have revealed that there is a clear mismatch between the country’s green development aspiration, encompassing forest conservation and management objectives and the current institutional mandate of MEGD and institutional arrangements across the central government. The mandate of MEGD to advance green development has been hampered by its limited capacity and technical mandate to influence economic development and industry related discussions in other sectors. Although there are some new inter-sectoral working groups and initiatives being formed, cross-sectoral coordination at the policy implementation and regulatory fronts is still very much limited. The decentralization process has permitted greater budgetary control by local governments. This has resulted in further reduction of central budgets of ministries for policy implementation, but it may also present an opportunity for increased cross-sectoral work on the ground.     1. During this mission, the UN-REDD regional advisors from UNDP and UNEP and UNDP environment unit leader met and discussed with the national REDD+ focal point at MEDG and GIZ about UNEP’s role in Mongolia’s REDD+ Readiness, as Mongolia is expected to submit its national programme to the UN-REDD Policy Board next year.   The Division of Forest of MEGD has requested US$ 1 million from the next year ministerial budget to improve the forest monitoring and inventory work. Also, with the support from FAO and GIZ, LULUCF date will be available from 2014 onwards and reported to UNFCCC. The parliament is currently reviewing the country’s forest sector policy up to 2030, and MEGD is coordinating a cross-sectoral working group to develop an action plan for the policy and plans to incorporate key sections of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap in the action plan.  In discussion with the Division of Forest and GIZ, there seems to be two immediate entry points for UNEP. Assistance in defining clear pathways for the forest sector to make concrete contribution to the country’s green development agenda is one area, and the spatial analysis work led by WCMC might also provide the country with assistance to develop a decision support system. That would largly complement the land use change monitoring work supported by GIZ, and the GIS work led by the Meteorological Institute of Mongolia. UNEP will check internally about the possibility of providing TS in those directions.  Steps towards the submission of Mongolia’s national programme to the UN-REDD PB were also discussed. An integrated budget with indicated co-finding and parallel financing from government institutions and development partners is currently missing to complete the roadmap. This will be followed up with the support from UNDP CO.   1. The mission also met with the UNRC for debriefing, and the role of UNEP was also discussed in a much broader context than UN-REDD.   The RC emphasized the need for rationalizing UNEP’s support in PEI, PAGE and UN-REDD to ensure an UN-wide coherent approach. Also, a number of administrative issues related to the preparation and startup of the UN-REDD National Programme in Mongolia were discussed. The RC has expressed her full support and suggested to speak to various development partners and government institutions about the need for greater coordination and increasing both financial and technical assistance to the country’s REDD+ Readiness work. | | | | |
| Follow up actions:  * Continuation of TS implementation * Completion of an integrated budget of the Roadmap * Finalization of the Roadmap review process * Translation of the Roadmap into Mongolian * Circulation of the sector valuation work (e.g, publishing it in a business journal ‘Mongolian Economy’. | | | **Distribution List:**   * Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA * Elspeth Halverson * Dina Hajj | |